



DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

C. A third incident occurred on 27 January 1973, when 1Lt. Mark A. Peterson, USAF, (MIA), pilot, and Capt. George W. Morris, USAF, (KIA/PFOD), co-pilot, were crewmen on an OV10 aircraft controlling a search and rescue mission for the crewmen of an F-4 downed near the Cua estuary in South Vietnam. The Peterson-Morris plane was observed being hit by an SA-7 missile. Both men ejected and had good parachutes. Two beepers were heard; however, contact with Capt. Morris was never established while 1Lt. Peterson twice reported his imminent capture. The combination of two planes involved in this incident makes it a strong candidate for SC 1 report; however, the data base carries the location of the downed planes at more than 20 kilometers distance from Son Nam. A copy of this report and evaluation will be maintained in the DIA date base for future reference.

***** BIOGRAPHIC SECTION *****

INCD NBR: 1981-0-01 STATUS: 8
NAME: MORRIS, GEORGE WILLIAM JR
NATIONALITY: US RACE: C
SERVICE: AF SEX: M
GRADE: O3 HAIR: W
SSN: DATA EYES: E
SERIAL NO: S HEIGHT: 71
BIRTH DATE: 460916 WEIGHT: 165
CREATE DATE: COMPLEXION: F
DUTY DATE: CO PILOT BLOOD TYPE: O
UNIT ASGN: 23 TAC AIR SPT SQ RELIGION: OT
PW CAMP: S HOME STATE: 05
GRAVE CORR: 1

DATE STATUS ASSIGNED: 780823
MED RECORD:
DEN RECORD:
DEN XRAY:
DD1300: Y
PHOTO: Y
DIA FILE NO:
PERS AUTH NO:
BLOOD CHIT NO: 31466
WEAPON TYPE: 14
WEAPON SERIAL: 4663984

***** SITE SECTION *****

SITE NUMBER: 1981000 SITE TYPE:
GRID ZONE DESG: CATEGORY: 3
UTM: 48QYD328655 UMBER MIS/BNR:
COUNTRY: VS NUMBER RECOVERED: 00
MILITARY REGION: 1 NUMBER POS ID:
PROVINCE: 01 JCRC SEARCH:
MISSION DATE: 730127 JCRC INSPECTION:
OTHER INSPECTION:
WITNESS STATEMENT:
BOARD ACTION:

MISSION NAME: COMBA
CALL SIGN: NAIL-
CRASH: A
VEHICLE TYPE: OV10A
YEAR: 68
SERIAL: 38
ACCY: A
SVC: AF
ENGINE TYPE: T76
1 SERIAL: 0053
2 SERIAL: 0029

CLASSIFICATION - DATE OF REPORT: 76/04/21

AT 1735 HOURS ON 27 JANUARY 1973 1LT MARK A. PETERSON, PILOT, AND CAPT GEORGE W. MORRIS JR., CO-PILOT, WERE CREWMEN OF AN OV10 AIRCRAFT, (#68-3806, CALL SIGN NAIL 89), CONTROLLING A SEARCH AND RESCUE MISSION FOR THE CREWMEN OF AN F4 AIRCRAFT WHICH HAD BEEN DOWNED AT 1715 HOURS NEAR THE CUA VIET RIVER IN SOUTH VIETNAM. CREWMEN OF THE OTHER AIRCRAFT IN THE AREA SAW THE PETERSON-MORRIS AIRCRAFT HIT BY AN SA-7 MISSILE AND OBSERVED BOTH OFFICERS EJECT. THEY SAW TWO GOOD PARACHUTES, WHICH LANDED NEAR EACH OTHER, AND HEARD TWO GOOD BEEPER SIGNALS

AFTER A BRIEF PERIOD THEY HEARD 1LT PETERSON STATE: "THIS IS NAIL 89'ER. I'M GOING TO BE CAPTURED. I'M GOING TO BE CAPTURED" HE WAS ASKED TO REPEAT THIS TRANSMISSION AND DID SO. THERE WAS NO FURTHER CONTACT WITH HIM AND CONTACT WAS NEVER ESTABLISHED WITH CAPT MORRIS. THE LAST KNOWN LOCATION WAS IN THE VICINITY OF GRID COORDINATES YD 328 655. (REF 1)

ONE MEMBER OF THE F4 CREW WAS CAPTURED. HE WAS RELEASED DURING OPERATION HOMECOMING AND REPORTED HE SAW THE OV10 HIT AND THE CREWMEN EJECT. AS THEY WERE COMING DOWN IN THEIR PARACHUTES, AN ESTIMATED 30 NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS OPENED FIRE ON THEM WITH AK-47 RIFLE FIRE. HE BELIEVED THEY WERE BOTH KILLED. ALSO, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE IN HANOI MADE A GREAT PRODUCTION OF HIM BEING THE LAST US POW OF THE WAR. (REF 2)

A SOUTH VIETNAMESE SOURCE REPORTED THAT ON 30 JANUARY 1973 HE OBSERVED AN OV10 PLANE SHOT DOWN. HE LATER OBSERVED A US POW BEING ESCORTED BY FIVE NORTH VIETNAMESE PERSONNEL. HE HEARD THIS POW WAS TO BE TAKEN TO THE TRIEU PHONG DISTRICT UNIT AND THAT A SECOND US PILOT WAS KILLED IN ACTION AT THE CRASH SITE. (REF 3)

A NORTH VIETNAMESE SOURCE REPORTED HEARING FROM A LOCAL GUERRILLA MEMBER OF THE GO HAI VILLAGE UNIT THAT A N OV10 AIRCRAFT HAD BEEN SHOT DOWN BY A SINGLE MISSILE (TYPE UNKNOWN) OF AN ANTI-AIRCRAFT UNIT IN THE CUA VIET AREA. THE US PILOT EJECTED BUT HIS PARACHUTE DID NOT OPEN AND HE WAS KILLED INSTANTLY ON IMPACT IN A RICEFIELD. IN THE MEANTIME, THE PLANE CRASHED ABOUT TWO KILOMETERS SOUTHEAST OF THE SITE WHERE THE PILOT LANDED. THE SOURCE DID NOT VISIT THE SITE AND COULD NOT PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION OF THE PILOT'S REMAINS. (REF 4)

A SOUTH VIETNAMESE SOLDIER WHO ESCAPED FROM COMMUNIST DETENTION REPORTED OBSERVING AN OV10 HIT BY ANTI-AIRCRAFT GROUND FIRE ABOUT THREE KILOMETERS FROM HIS LOCATION. THE PILOTS EJECTED FROM THE AIRCRAFT. THE WIND BLEW BOTH PARACHUTES IN A NORTHEAST DIRECTION. A LITTLE LATER A GROUP OF FIVE GUERRILLAS ESCORTED A US POW TO THE SOURCE'S LOCATION. AN ESCORT TOLD THE SOURCE THE POW WAS BEING TAKEN TO THE SECURITY SECTION OF THE TRIEU PHONG DISTRICT UNIT. A FEW DAYS AFTER THIS INCIDENT THE SOURCE HEARD FROM A FRIEND THAT ONE OF THE OV10 PILOTS HAD BEEN KILLED AND BURIED IN THE CENTER OF A RICEFIELD. (REF 5)

DURING THE EXISTENCE OF JCRC, THE HOSTILE THREAT IN THE AREA PRECLUDED ANY VISITS TO OR GROUND INSPECTIONS OF THE SITES INVOLVED IN THIS CASE. THIS INDIVIDUAL'S NAME AND IDENTIFYING DATA WERE TURNED OVER TO THE FOUR-PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM WITH A REQUEST FOR ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE. NO RESPONSE WAS FORTHCOMING. CAPT MORRIS AND 1LT PETERSON ARE CURRENTLY CARRIED IN THE PRESUMPTIVE STATUS OF DEAD, BODY NOT RECOVERED.

REFERENCES USED: 1. RPT 56CSG, AF FORM 484 W/STATEMENTS, FEB 73. 2. MSG 13 AF JFPC, 271900Z MAR 73. 3. RPT USDAO IIR 6 918 5878 74, 11 MAY 74. 4. RPT USDAO IIR 6 918 6811 74, 28 AUG 74. 5. MSG

INCD_NBR: 1981-0-01
NAME: MORRIS

GEORGE WILLIAM JR

STATUS: 8

DATE STATUS ASSIGNED:

***** CONTINUE FROM LAST PAGE *****

USDAO IIR 6 918 6655 74, 9 AUG 74.

CLASSIFICATION = DATE OF REPORT: 78/09/21

A NEGOTIATION FOLDER FOR THIS INDIVIDUAL WAS PASSED TO THE SRV GOVERNMENT DURING THE WEEK OF 21 AUG 1978 FOR USE IN CASUALTY RESOLUTION.

CLASSIFICATION = DATE OF REPORT: 87/12/08

A CASE NARRATIVE PERTAINING TO BOTH PARTIES WAS PASSED BY JCRC ON 4 AUG 87 TO THE SRV EMBASSY IN BANGKOK PURSUANT TO AGREEMENTS REACHED BETWEEN GENERAL VESSEY AND SRV FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN CO TACH.

CLASSIFICATION = DATE OF REPORT: 75/08/05

BURIAL SITE COORDINATES OF YD 325 659 FOR REFNO'S 1981-0-01, 1981-0-02, OR 1982-0-01 ENTERED BASED ON IR 6 -918-5878-74, USDAO SGN RVN, DTG 110832Z MAY 74 AND IR6-918-6655-74, USDAO SGN RVN, DTG 100833Z AUG 74.

CLASSIFICATION = DATE OF REPORT: 76/04/21

ASSOCIATED INDIVIDUALS: GEORGE W. MORRIS JR. 1981-0-01, AND MARK A. PETERSON 1981-0-02.

CLASSIFICATION = DATE OF REPORT: 75/06/04

INCIDENT LOCATION CHANGED FROM YD325659 TO YD328655 BASED ON AF FORM 484.

INCD_NBR: 1981-0-02

NAME: PETERSON, MARK ALLAN

STATUS: 8

NATIONALITY: US

SERVICE: AF

GRADE: O2

SSN: DATA

SERIAL NO: S

BIRTH DATE: 490514

CREATE DATE:

DUTY DATE: PILOT

UNIT ASGN: 23 TAC AIR SPT SQ

PW CAMP: S

***** BIOGRAPHIC SECTION *****

RACE: C

SEX: M

HAIR: R

EYES: C

HEIGHT: 73

WEIGHT: 145

COMPLEXION: F

BLOOD TYPE: A

RELIGION: PR

HOME STATE: 35

GRAVE CORR: 1

DATE STATUS ASSIGNED: 791004

MBD RECORD:

DEN RECORD:

DEN XRAY:

DD1300: Y

PHOTO: Y

DIA FILE NO:

PERS AUTH NO:

BLOOD CHIT NO: 28849

WEAPON TYPE: 44

WEAPON SERIAL: K811309

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